

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended): A fuel cell, comprising: a membrane electrolyte assembly; and a collector for collecting electricity, said collector being disposed on both sides of said membrane electrolyte assembly, wherein said membrane electrolyte assembly for a fuel cell, comprising:

an electrode including [[a]] an metal oxynitride oxygen reduction electrode catalyst comprising an oxynitride containing Ta at least one transition metal element selected from the group consisting of La, Ta, Nb, Ti, and Zr, wherein atomic ratio of (transition metal element):(oxygen):(nitrogen) (tantalum):(oxygen):(nitrogen) is (1±0.1):(1±0.1):(1±0.1); and

an acidic electrolyte contacting said metal oxynitride oxygen reduction electrode catalyst, wherein said metal oxynitride oxygen reduction electrode catalyst having an oxygen reduction catalytic activity at a potential of 0.4 V or higher relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode potential in said acidic electrolyte.

9. (Currently Amended): The fuel cell membrane electrolyte assembly according to Claim 8, wherein the metal oxynitride oxygen reduction electrode catalyst is dispersed as fine particles on a catalyst carrier which is an electronically conductive powder.